



## Maricopa County

Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox  
Board of Supervisors, District 5

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April 17, 2013

The Honorable Janice K. Brewer  
Arizona Governor  
Executive Tower  
1700 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer:

I write to plead with you to veto HB 2455: unclaimed property; firearms; disposition. The bill would eliminate local governments' ability to host gun buybacks, a practice that has been used with great success to remove unwanted guns from our communities.

Our country is entering a time of important debate on the best way to prevent gun violence. It has taken horrific tragedies and unending heartbreak to get to this point, and it would be very unwise to remove any option from the table while we consider the best plan of action – especially options that we know to be effective. In my years of public service, I have participated in three gun buybacks, which removed more than 650 guns from the streets of Phoenix. I have looked into the appreciative faces of mothers trying to help their underage sons avoid gang involvement and fathers who want to prevent accidental injuries from unwanted guns. They thought the destruction of guns was a good idea.

Supporters of HB 2455 argue that government resources should not be used to facilitate the destruction of guns, but I argue the very purpose of serving as a local elected official is to use tax dollars to efficiently meet the needs of our constituents. Gun buybacks do not violate the Second Amendment. They do not impact any resident who does not want to participate. They simply provide an option to citizens who believe their community will be a better place without more guns on the street.

You've heard the impassioned concerns that this bill would lead to the resale of the gun used by Jared Loughner, and I share those concerns. But the issue is bigger than that. This bill would not only lead to the resale of guns used in unimaginable crimes – it would force the resale of guns that would otherwise NEVER have been used for violence. How many lives could be lost through the use of weapons our own citizens hoped to remove from the hands of criminals?

Please support Arizonans' right to destroy unwanted weapons. Please veto HB 2455.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Rose Wilcox".

Mary Rose Garrido Wilcox  
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